Fact Sheet
August 2004

"Corrected Fact Sheet"
Proposed Stockton School Site Needs Public Review of Cleanup Plan

DEPARTMENT OF TOXIC SUBSTANCES CONTROL

DTSC is one of six Boards and Departments within the California Environmental Protection Agency. The Department's mission is to restore, protect and enhance the environment, to ensure public health, environmental quality and economic vitality, by regulating hazardous waste, conducting and overseeing cleanups, and developing and promoting pollution prevention.

State of California

California Environmental Protection Agency

On August 18, 2004, the Stockton Unified School District mailed you a fact sheet on behalf of the California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) informing you of elevated levels of contamination detected at the new Wilhelmina Henry Elementary School site. The fact sheet contained formatting and grammatical errors; however; the scientific information remains the same. Due to the errors, DTSC would like to provide you with a corrected fact sheet.

We apologize for the errors in the fact sheet and for any inconvenience this may have caused you.

DTSC is proposing a cleanup plan which is known as a Draft Removal Action Workplan (RAW) on the new Wilhelmina Henry Elementary School that needs community review and comment. The site is located 4642, 4708 and 4798 E. Mail Street, Stockton, California. After a series of soil sampling conducted by the District, elevated levels of various metals and pesticides were detected. When elevated levels above the established standards are detected, the State requires the District to cleanup the soil to a level safe enough for a school to be built.

This fact sheet summarizes the details of the proposed Draft RAW (cleanup) activities. You can review the Draft RAW in its entirety at the information repositories listed on page 4.

Public Comment Period

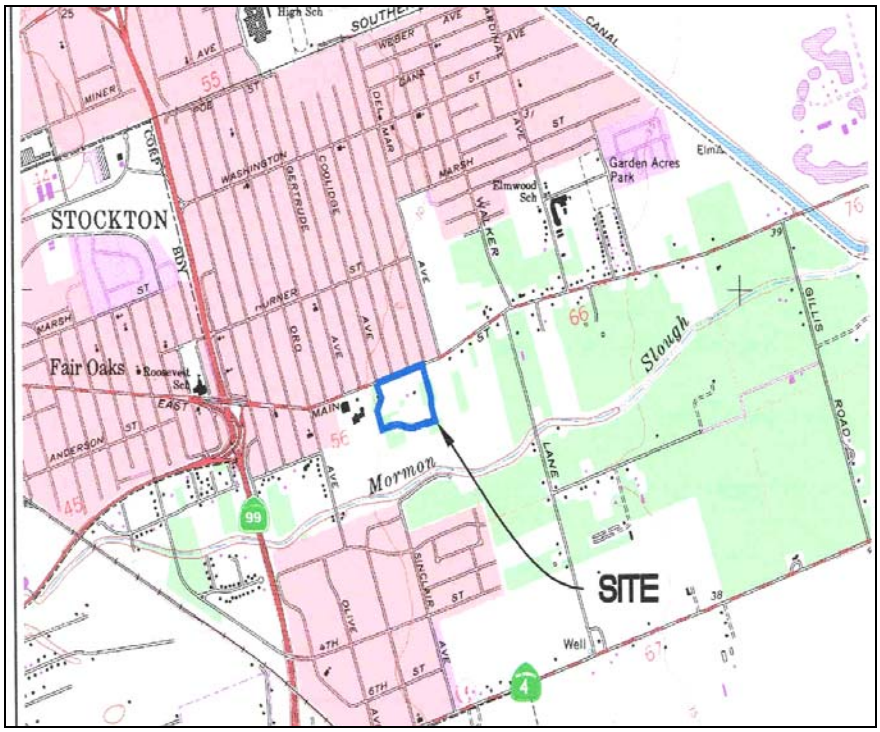
We encourage you to review and comment on the Draft Removal Action Workplan (RAW) and the California Environmental Quality Act, Notice of Exemption (NOE). DTSC will conduct a 30-day Public Comment Period, which begins on **August 19, 2004** and ends on **September 17, 2004**. All mail must be postmarked by 5:00 p.m. on **September 17, 2004**. Emailed comments must be sent to Mr. Michael Lozano no later than 5:00 p.m. on the same date.

Mail written comments to:

DTSC
Mr. Michael Lozano, Project Manager
8800 Cal Center Drive
Sacramento, California 95826
or via email at Mlozano@dtsc.ca.gov

This fact sheet will provide you:

- Site history and background of the site
- Findings of the investigation
- Remedies for cleaning the site (Draft RAW)
- Proposed activities for cleaning the site
- Observations of the cleanup activities
- Impact of the California Environmental Quality Act - Notice of Exemption
- Next steps



Location of the site

Site history and background of the site

The Stockton Unified School District (SUSD) proposes to build a new Wilhelmina Henry Elementary School. The site is located on an approximately 14.0 acres. Aerial photographs indicate that this property was used as agricultural land since about 1937. Therefore, agriculturally-related contaminants were left in the soil. The contaminants detected in the soil are metals and pesticides. Currently, the entire school site is vacant.

Findings of the investigation

Elevated levels of metals and pesticides were detected during soil sampling that was conducted from January 2004 through April 2004. *Please see the glossary on page 5 for a more detailed definition of detected contaminants.*

Detected Contaminants	Elevated Level	DTSC Cleanup Level
Metals:		
Lead	Max 3,400 ppm	255 ppm
Arsenic	Max 49 ppm	14 ppm
Pesticides:		
DDD	Max 150 ppm	1.663 ppm
DDE	Max 7.0 ppm	1.174 ppm
DDT	Max 23 ppm	1.174 ppm
Dieldrin	Max 0.76 ppm	0.025 ppm
Kepone	Max 2.2 ppm	0.025 ppm

The elevated levels pose a potential threat to human health and the environment; therefore, DTSC recommends a removal action be performed prior to beginning the construction of a new school.

Remedies for cleaning the site (Draft RAW)

The primary objective of a Draft RAW is to conduct a removal action to prevent, minimize, or mitigate potential damage to public health and the environment. A Draft RAW summarizes previous studies, outlines available cleanup alternatives, and proposes cleanup options. In addition to the cleanup methods, a Draft RAW identifies the possible removal alternatives. Removal alternatives are screened and evaluated on the basis of their effectiveness, ability to implement, and cost.

Before DTSC makes a final decision to approve or deny the proposed cleanup activities, we will review and consider the comments received during the 30-day public comment period.

Proposed activities for cleaning the site

After considering and reviewing the proposed alternative, cleanup options and methods, DTSC recommends the following activities for cleaning up the site:

- Remove approximately 1,664 cubic yards of contaminated soils (120 truckloads);
- Remove contaminated soil from site stockpiles;
- Transport of contaminated soil by a licensed hazardous waste trucking contractor to a State licensed disposal facility;
- Backfill with clean imported soil, if necessary.

Observations of the cleanup process

If the Draft RAW is approved, you can expect to see the following cleanup activities for approximately five days:

- Personnel using standard backhoe machinery as well as safety gear
- Stockpiled contaminated soil on site
- Plastic wrap over stockpiles to prevent contact with wind and rain
- Covered trucks removing soil from site to a State licensed landfill
- Airborne Dust monitoring

Example of a Backhoe at work

Fencing

The areas where the digging will occur will be secured, using existing fencing where possible and temporary fencing or barriers so that unauthorized personnel do not enter the work area.

Truck Route

A variety of truck types will be used to deliver and remove supplies and materials from the Site on an as-needed basis. Trucks will travel between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. Trucks exiting the site will:

- Leave on Main Street and travel east towards Walker Lane
- Turn right onto Walker Lane and proceed to Highway 4
- Turn right onto Highway 4 and proceed southeast to Farmington Road
- Turn left turn onto Highway 99 and proceed south bound to Highway 5
- Proceed directly to Kettleman Landfill located near Kettleman City in Kings County

Dust Suppression

Airborne dust monitoring is conducted to verify and document dust suppression efforts. Control measures, include spraying of water, will minimize generation of dusts during the digging and disposal activities. Before leaving the site, truck tires will be cleaned, and trucks will be equipped with tarps to cover the soils after it has been loaded, so that soil will not spill out of the trucks while they are on the road.

California Environmental Quality Act - Notice of Exemption

DTSC prepared a Notice of Exemption (NOE) for this project pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act. The NOE document states that the project will not have a significant negative effect on the environment because of the relatively small volume, short duration, and the controlled manner in which the contaminated soil will be removed, loaded onto trucks, and taken away for disposal.

Next Steps

Confirmation sampling will be conducted to verify that all soils containing elevated levels of contamination have been properly removed, and the Site is safe for occupancy as a school.

For More Information

You are encouraged to contact any of the following individuals with any questions or concerns you may have.

For questions regarding the Draft RAW, please contact Mr. Michael Lozano, DTSC Project Manager at (916) 255-6523.

For questions regarding the public participation process, contact Ms. Kim Rhodes, DTSC Public Participation Specialist, at (916) 255-3651.

For media questions, please contact Ms. Lisa Gray, DTSC Public Information Officer at (916) 324-0936.

Where can I find the document for review?

The Draft RAW and NOE can be reviewed at the following Information Repositories:

Stockton Unified School District
Administration Office
701 N. Madison
Stockton, CA 95202
(209) 933-7070

City of Stockton's Caesar Chavez Central Library
605 N. El Dorado Street
Stockton, CA 95202
(209) 937-8415

Department of Toxic Substances Control
8800 Cal Center Drive
Sacramento, CA 95826-3200
Mr. Michael Lozano, Project Manager
Mlozano@dtsc.ca.gov
(916) 255-6523

File Room:
Monday-Friday: 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
By appointment only (916) 255-3758

Notice to Hearing Impaired Individuals

TDD users can use the California Relay Service at 1-888-877-5378) and ask to speak to Ms. Kim Rhodes at (916) 255-3651.

Glossary

Arsenic - Per the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry, exposure to various levels of arsenic occurs mostly in the workplace, in areas with high natural levels or breathing sawdust or burning smoke from wood treated with arsenic. Exposure to lower levels for a long time can cause a discoloration of the skin and the appearance of small corns or warts. Organic arsenic compounds are used as pesticides, primarily on cotton plants.

DDD (dichlorodiphenyldichloroethane) – Per the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry, exposure to DDD occurs mostly from eating contaminated foods such as root and leafy vegetables, fatty meat, fish, and poultry but levels are very low. DDD was used to kill insects. One form of DDD has been used medically to treat cancer of the adrenal gland.

DDE (dichlorodiphenyldichloroethylene) - Per the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry, exposure to DDD occurs mostly from eating contaminated foods such as root and leafy vegetables, fatty meat, fish, and poultry but levels are very low. In women, DDE can cause a reduction in the duration of lactation and an increased chance of having a premature baby.

DDT (dichlorodiphenyltrichloroethane) - Per the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry, exposure to DDT occurs mostly from eating contaminated foods such as root and leafy vegetables, fatty meat, fish, and poultry-- but levels are very low. DDT is a pesticide once widely used to control insects in agriculture.

Dieldrin - Per the United States Environmental Protection Agency, exposure to dieldrin occurs mainly from touching or eating soil or food that contains the chemical. Dieldrin was widely used to control insects on cotton, corn and citrus crops. Also, dieldrin was used to control locusts and mosquitoes, as a wood preserve, and for termite control. Dieldrin is an insecticide and a probable human carcinogen.

Kepone (Chlordecone) - Per the Agency Toxic Substances and Disease Registry, exposure to kepone occurs mainly from touching or eating soil or food that contains the chemical. At high levels, these chemicals may cause damage to the skin, liver, or nervous and reproductive systems. Kepone is a manufactured insecticides that do not occur naturally in the environment.

Lead - Per the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry, exposure to lead can happen from breathing workplace air or dust, eating contaminated foods, or drinking contaminated water. Children can be exposed from eating lead-based paint chips or playing in contaminated soil. Lead can damage the nervous system, kidneys, and reproductive system. Lead is a naturally occurring bluish-gray metal found in small amounts in the earth's crust. Lead can be found in all parts of our environment. Much of it comes from human activities including burning fossil fuels, mining, and manufacturing.

Parts Per Million (ppm) – Per the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, parts per million (ppm) is commonly used to express contamination ratios, as in establishing the maximum permissible amount of a contaminant in water, land or air.